

Foreword

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Foreword

This collection of essays is one of the products of a three-year collaborative research project. During the academic and fiscal years 2003, 2004, and 2005, faculty members of the International Research Center for Japanese Studies (Nichibunken) in Kyoto joined with scholars from universities in Australia, Hong Kong, Indonesia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, and Vietnam, and a few other Japanese institutions to examine the theme “Globalization, Localization, and Japanese Studies in the Asia-Pacific Region: Past, Present, Future” in three symposia. Altogether more than a hundred scholars made presentations or acted as discussants over the course of the project. The present volume contains some of the work originally presented in the first year.

Earlier versions of the essays in this volume were presented and discussed at an international symposium from 28 through 31 October 2004.* Co-organized by the International Research Center for Japanese Studies and the Department of Japanese Studies of the National University of Singapore, the event took place at the Orchard Parade Hotel in Singapore. Professor Timothy Tsu of the National University of Singapore, the late Professor Sonoda Hidehiro of Nichibunken, Associate Professor Timothy Kern of Nichibunken, and I were the persons most heavily engaged in the early stages of planning for the symposium.

Professor Suzuki Sadami deserves prominent mention, and our warmest appreciation, as the author of the original proposal for this project during his tenure as Director of Nichibunken’s Office of Research Exchange in the academic years 2000 through 2002. After the proposal was approved, I served for one year and Sonoda Hidehiro served for two as chairman of the Nichibunken committee that was responsible for planning and executing this Center’s activities in the series of symposia.

Nichibunken Director-General Yamaori Tetsuo delivered opening remarks and took part in discussions. Professor Tan Tai Yong, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at the National University of Singapore, gave a highly stimulating keynote address, “Global Flows in the Making of Regional Polities,” that touched on several of the important themes of this “globalization, localization” project. The symposium organizers are happy to have the opportunity now to thank Professors Yamaori and Tan for their help in making the Singapore event a success.

I wish to express gratitude here for the support of Kawakatsu Heita and Nakanishi Takeshi. The former, a Professor in the Research Department and Director of the Office of Research Exchange at Nichibunken at the time of the Singapore Symposium and the newly elected Governor of Shizuoka Prefecture as I write this foreword, provided valuable advice to the organizers and gave one of the keynote speeches at the conference (a version of his essay in this volume). Mr. Nakanishi, a Co-Ordinator on the staff of the

* There is a single exception—one essay that was not originally presented in Singapore in 2004—in this book, and that is the contribution of Purnendra Jain. Professor Jain gave a version of his paper “Japan and a New Asian Order” as a keynote speech at the third symposium in this series, at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, in 2005. The theme fits particularly well into the present volume, and we have decided to place his essay here.

Research Cooperation Division at Nichibunken in 2004, was responsible for managing the administrative matters that have to be taken care of in order to move scholars from several nations to a conference location, to arrange for their lodging, and to see to copying and other details of preparation for the academic presentations that now appear in another version in these pages. Itō Akiko, who was a postdoctoral research fellow at Nichibunken at that time, assisted with administrative preparation in the office of Research Exchange before the conference and provides quick and cool-headed support during the event in Singapore.

Sincere thanks also are due to the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, which supported this three-year project with a Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research. This volume offers to readers some of the results made possible by this funding. The scholars who took part in the Singapore symposium continue to benefit intellectually and personally today from the JSPS support of this project.

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** The affiliation shown below the author's name on the first page of each essay is as of the time of the symposium. For updated information, please see the Notes on Contributors at the end of this volume.